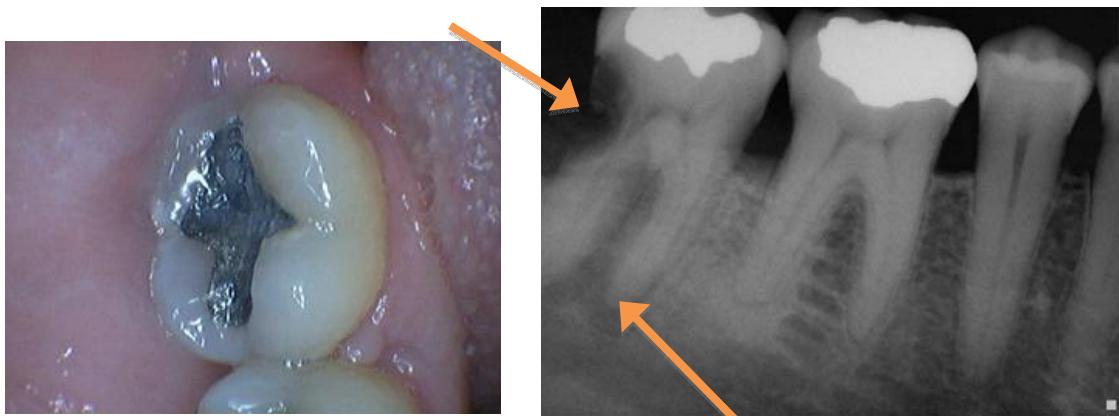


## Do I Really Need X-Rays Today?

So often, when patients are told that they are due for dental radiographs, the question arises: "Do I really need x-rays? My teeth look fine to me." Dental radiographs are a vital diagnostic tool that your dental hygienist and dentist use to diagnose decay, dental abscess, tooth fractures and periodontal disease among other things. A tooth that appears visually solid in the mouth can have a host of problems happening under the gums. Remember, two-thirds of your tooth can't be seen without a dental x-ray!

Dental x-rays expose a patient to 20x less radiation than the average individual receives from natural sources, per year. Radiographs are a valuable diagnostic tool. Dr. Silvestri and Dr. Comfort recommend bitewings yearly and a panoramic radiograph every 5 years in order to best meet your oral health needs.



The image on the left shows a tooth that appears healthy and intact. However, the radiograph on the right reveals deep decay that extends to the nerve and a large abscess. Unfortunately, this tooth is too damaged to be saved.